Amendment to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) An image processing apparatus that corrects an image blur by using a plurality of images acquired by <u>an</u> image capturing <u>unit</u> ~~means~~ comprising:

   <u>a</u> blur detection <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for detecting~~ <u>detect</u> a blur amount between the plurality of images;

   <u>an</u> image composition <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for performing~~ <u>perform</u> a composition of the plurality of images using the detected blur amount;

   <u>an</u> acquisition <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for acquireing~~ <u>acquire</u>, based on a difference value between the plurality of images and a threshold value thereof, region data for separating the image into regions by changing the threshold value; and

   <u>a</u> display <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for~~ selectably ~~displaying~~ <u>display</u> the region data for each threshold value.

2.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ said acquisition <u>unit</u> ~~means~~ acquires a binarized image for each threshold value, which is obtained by binarizing a difference value between an image photographed with flash emission and an image photographed without flash emission.

3.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising <u>a</u> setting <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for setting~~ <u>set</u> a number of images for the composition in units of region with respect to the binarized image,

   <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ said display <u>unit</u> ~~means~~ selectably displays the binarized image generated by performing the composition for each threshold value.

4.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said display unit ~~means~~ stores the binarized image generated by performing the composition for each threshold value in a memory, reads the binarized image out of the memory and displays the image in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

5.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said display unit ~~means~~ stores the binarized image for each threshold value in a memory, generates and displays a binarized image in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

6.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said display unit ~~means~~ generates a binarized image in accordance with a change in the threshold value, generates a composite image by performing the composition of the generated binarized image in units of region, and displays the composite image.

7.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said display unit ~~means~~ stores the binarized image for each threshold value in a memory, reads a binarized image out of the memory and displays the image in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

8.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said display unit ~~means~~ generates and displays a binarized image in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

9.   (currently amended) An image processing apparatus that corrects an image blur by using a plurality of images acquired by an image capturing unit ~~means, characterized~~

~~by~~ comprising:

<u>a</u> blur detection <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for detecting~~ <u>detect</u> a blur amount between the plurality of images;

<u>an</u> image composition <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for performing~~ <u>perform</u> a composition of the plurality of images using the detected blur amount;

<u>an</u> acquisition <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for acquireing~~ <u>acquire,</u> based on a difference value between the plurality of images and a threshold value thereof, region data for separating the image into regions by changing the threshold value; and

<u>a</u> correction <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for correcting~~ <u>correct</u> the region data acquired for each threshold value.

10.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ said acquisition <u>unit</u> ~~means~~ acquires a binarized image for each threshold value, which is obtained by binarizing a difference value between an image photographed with flash emission and an image photographed without flash emission.

11.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising <u>a</u> setting <u>unit adapted to</u> ~~means for setting~~ <u>set</u> a number of images for the composition in units of region with respect to the binarized image.

12.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, <u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ said correction <u>unit</u> ~~means~~ corrects the binarized image for each threshold value.

13.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10 ~~or~~

11, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said correction unit ~~means~~ generates a plurality of

binarized images based on an image photographed with flash emission and a plurality of

images photographed without flash emission, and acquires a binary image corrected by a

logical product between the plurality of binarized images.

14.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according claim 10,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said correction unit ~~means~~ corrects the binarized image for

each threshold value using predetermined additional data.

15.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 14,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the additional data is focalized data of an AF sensor.

16.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 15,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said correction unit ~~means~~ determines a region including

the focalized region as a correct region among the regions of the binarized image.

17.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 14,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the additional data is position data obtained by an infrared

ray sensor.

18.   (currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said correction unit ~~means~~ determines a region that is closer

than a predetermined position as a correct region among the regions of the binarized

image.

19.   (currently amended) An image processing method of correcting an image blur by

using a plurality of images acquired by an image capturing unit ~~means~~, comprising:

        a blur detection step of detecting a blur amount between the plurality of images;

an image composition step of performing a composition of the plurality of images

using the detected blur amount;

an acquisition step of acquiring, based on a difference value between the plurality

of images and a threshold value thereof, region data for separating the image into regions

by changing the threshold value; and

a display step of selectably displaying the region data for each threshold value.

20.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 19,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said acquisition step, a binarized image for each

threshold value, which is obtained by binarizing a difference value between an image

photographed with flash emission and an image photographed without flash emission, is

acquired.

21.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 20,

~~characterized by~~ further comprising a setting step of setting a number of images for the

composition in units of region with respect to the binarized image,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, the binarized image generated

by performing the composition for each threshold value is selectably displayed.

22.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, the binarized image generated by

performing the composition for each threshold value is stored in a memory, and the

binarized image is read out of the memory and displayed in accordance with a change in

the threshold value.

23.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, the binarized image for each threshold

value is stored in a memory, and a binarized image is generated and displayed in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

24.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, a binarized image is generated in accordance with a change in the threshold value, a composite image is generated by performing the composition of the generated binarized image in units of region, and the composite image is displayed.

25.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 20 ~~or 21~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, the binarized image for each threshold value is stored in a memory, a binarized image is read out of the memory and displayed in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

26.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said display step, a binarized image is generated and displayed in accordance with a change in the threshold value.

27.   (currently amended) An image processing method of correcting an image blur by using a plurality of images acquired by an image capturing unit ~~means~~ , ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

        a blur detection step of detecting a blur amount between the plurality of images;

        an image composition step of performing a composition of the plurality of images using the detected blur amount;

        an acquisition step of acquiring, based on a difference value between the plurality of images and a threshold value thereof, region data for separating the image into regions by changing the threshold value; and

a correction step of correcting the region data acquired for each threshold value.

28.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 27, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said acquisition step, a binarized image for each threshold value, which is obtained by binarizing a difference value between an image photographed with flash emission and an image photographed without flash emission, is acquired.

29.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 28, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a setting step of setting a number of images for the composition in units of region with respect to the binarized image.

30.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 28, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said correction step, the binarized image for each threshold value is corrected.

31.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 28 ~~or 29~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said correction step, a plurality of binarized images are generated based on an image photographed with flash emission and a plurality of images photographed without flash emission, and a binary image corrected by a logical product between the plurality of binarized images is acquired.

32.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 28, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in said correction step, the binarized image for each threshold value is corrected using predetermined additional data.

33.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 32, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the additional data is focalized data of an AF sensor.

34.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 33,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said correction step, a region including the focalized

region is determined as a correct region among the regions of the binarized image.

35.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 32,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ the additional data is position data obtained by an infrared

ray sensor.

36.   (currently amended) The image processing method according to claim 35,

<u>wherein</u> ~~characterized in that~~ in said correction step, a region that is closer than a

predetermined position is determined as a correct region among the regions of the

binarized image.

37.   (currently amended) A program causing a computer to execute the image

processing method defined in claim 19 ~~or 27~~.

38.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~characterized by~~

storing the program defined in claim 37.

39.   (new) A program causing a computer to execute the image processing method

defined in claim 27.

40.   (new) A computer-readable storage medium storing the program defined in

claim 39.